

Olivier at Central Community College Health Education Laddering Program (Project HELP)

Olivier Musungay is a remarkable individual! When he started the Nurse Aide program, he was juggling a full-time job and classes not in his native language. His family was also living in a city 80 miles away. Olivier's training as a high school teacher and his college experience gave him the study skills he needed, but translating and studying the assigned reading slowed his progress in the six -week course.

As part of Project HELP, supported by the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG), funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance, Olivier received assistance from a case manager. The case manager encouraged him and helped him locate local resources, as well as connect him to an online translation program. The Vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) specialist introduced him to text-to-speech software which also provided word translation and definition options in his first language of French. Olivier met with a tutor who helped him memorize and demonstrate Nurse Aide procedures. Through the HPOG program, Olivier was able to check out a laptop computer, medical dictionaries, and Rosetta Stone software. He also received guidance on and practice with job interviews.

The connection to Project HELP, combined with his own determination, intelligence, and hard work, resulted in successful completion of the course and a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) position several weeks later. Olivier was also featured in two local newspaper articles describing his setbacks, determination, and accomplishments. Since the success story and newspaper articles, Olivier has enrolled in the Medication Aide training with intent to continue on towards his Registered Nursing degree.